

40 WEEKS EARL BLUMENAUER #38 Animal Welfare 40 IDEAS

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Background

Congressman Blumenauer believes a livable community must promote the humane treatment of animals at home, in farms, in communities and in the wild. Animals enrich our lives on a daily basis, and the mistreatment of animals is linked to negative impacts on our environment, health, and the way that we treat each other.

Current United States agricultural practices include massive factory meat-production techniques that are not only cruel to animals, but are huge sources of water and air pollution that are linked to public health concerns. In addition, there is growing concern that exposure to animals that have been treated with hormones and antibiotics even though they are not ill increases the risks of antibiotic-resistant disease outbreaks among humans.

There is also a known link between animal cruelty and human violence. Pet abuse is one of four predictors of domestic partner violence. One study found that of a group of offenders charged with crimes against animals, 65% of them had also been arrested for battery against another person.

Despite the obvious connections between animal welfare and human quality of life, it is often difficult for Congress to agree upon and pass legislation to improve standards and enforcement of existing laws. This means that egg-laying hens are often packed into battery cages, horses are still frequently subjected to torture during training and we still see animal fighting competitions.

Solution

[Visit the Ideas Index](#) to see all the ideas that have been submitted to the contest. You can also find the contest rules and terms of service.

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